

11 WRITING A SCRIPT: EFFECTIVE HABITS

SHONDA RHIMES TEACHES WRITING FOR TELEVISION 24

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It's not like there's a science to being creative. Just do what works for you and keep going forward. —*Shonda Rhimes*

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CHAPTER RECAP

Like a runner who must run every day to keep their muscles strong, a writer should write every day. There's no perfect method for creating this type of discipline, but you can start by trying to find the creature comforts or rituals that help the process along, whether they take the form of a particular type of drink, a well-worn chair, or your favorite music.

If writer's block is something you frequently run into, try to keep two creative projects going at the same time. That way, if you hit a rut with one writing project, you can switch gears to the other.

Develop and experiment with a writing schedule that works for you. It could be getting up at 6 a.m. to write for two hours, finding an hour in between work and dinner, or binge-writing for an entire weekend. Shonda likes to write her entire episode in chronological order, but you may prefer to jump around scenes. Whatever you choose to do, know that the important part is that you are making progress on your script.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- Shonda talks about what tools she uses to write her scripts. What tools do you use? Share them with your fellow MasterClass classmates in [The Hub](#).

ASSIGNMENT

- Write out a schedule to complete your pilot script. Designate deadlines for completing a scene or act. Share your schedule with your classmates to help keep you accountable.

SUBCHAPTERS

- ▶ Treat the Creative Process Like a Muscle
- ▶ Find the Ritual That Helps You Write
- ▶ Shonda's Writing Tools
- ▶ Write to a Schedule and Deadline
- ▶ If You Get Writer's Block, Switch Projects
- ▶ Develop the Process That Works for You

NOTES

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